

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ An improvement in a process for the ~~polymerisation~~ polymerization or ~~copolymerisation~~ copolymerization in the gas phase of olefin(s) by bringing the ~~[[said]]~~ olefin(s) into contact, under polymerization or ~~copolymerisation~~ copolymerization conditions in a reactor in which the polymer or the copolymer is maintained in a fluidized bed and/or agitated with mechanical stirring, with a catalyst system, ~~which process comprises a pre start up operation characterized in that the improvement comprising~~, prior to the introduction of the ~~catalytic~~ catalyst system in the reactor, subjecting the reactor ~~is subjected~~ to a cleaning treatment ~~comprising that includes~~ the steps of introducing into the reactor an alkane having from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, circulating said alkane across the reactor under pressure and elevated temperature, and then depressurizing and purging the reactor of the alkane.
2. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 1, wherein the reactor contains a charge powder and wherein said cleaning treatment is performed before, after or during the introduction of the charge powder into the reactor.
3. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 2, wherein said cleaning treatment is performed before introduction of the charge powder into the reactor.
4. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the introduction of the alkane is performed in the presence of an inert gas, ~~e.g. nitrogen~~.

5. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cleaning treatment is performed under airtight conditions, in the absence of a reacting gas ~~like the olefins~~.
6. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cleaning treatment ~~comprises~~ includes circulating the alkane across the reactor under a pressure above ~~[[the]]~~ atmospheric pressure, ~~preferably comprised between 5 and 30 bars~~.
7. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cleaning treatment ~~comprises~~ includes circulating the alkane across the reactor at a temperature of at least 40°C, ~~preferably at a temperature comprised between 50 and 120°C~~.
8. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the alkane is chosen amongst one or more of butane, pentane, hexane, heptane or octane.
9. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 8, wherein the alkane is pentane ~~is used as the alkane~~.
10. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the quantity of alkane used for the cleaning treatment is such that the alkane partial pressure is ~~comprised~~ between 25 and 95% of the saturated vapor pressure of the ~~[[said]]~~ alkane under the temperature and pressure treatment conditions.
11. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to claim 10, wherein the quantity of alkane used for the cleaning treatment is such that the alkane partial

pressure is ~~comprised~~ between 45 and 75% of the saturated vapor pressure of the ~~[[said]]~~ alkane under the treatment conditions.

12. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ The process according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the treatment ~~[[last]]~~ lasts at least five minutes ~~and preferably over 15 minutes~~.

13. (New) The process of claim 4, wherein the inert gas is nitrogen.

14. (New) The process of claim 6, wherein the pressure is between 5 and 30 bars.

15. (New) The process of claim 7, wherein the temperature is between 50 and 120°C.

16. (New) The process of claim 12, wherein the treatment lasts for over 15 minutes.